## **Local Mandate Fiscal Impact Estimate Kentucky Legislative Research Commission** 2015 Regular Session

## **Part I: Measure Information**

Bill Request #: 884				
Bill #: HB 151				
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to consolidation of the offices of jailer and sheriff.				
Sponsor: Representative Phil J. Moffett				
Unit of Government: X City X County X Urban-County  X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government				
Office(s) Impacted: County Jailer, County Sheriff				
Requirement: X Mandatory Optional				
Effect on Powers & Duties: X Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing				
Part II: Purpose and Mechanics				

HB 151 consolidates the offices of sheriff and jailer in counties that do not contain either a full service jail or a jail that elects not to hold state prisoners albeit the jail meets the minimum health and life safety standards. Section 105 of the Kentucky Constitution states that:

The General Assembly may, at any time, consolidate the offices of Jailer and Sheriff in any county or counties, as it shall deem most expedient; but in the event such consolidation be made, the office of Sheriff shall be retained, and the Sheriff shall be required to perform the duties of Jailer.

## Part III: Fiscal Explanation, Bill Provisions, and Estimated Cost

The fiscal impact of HB 151 on fiscal court is expected to be moderate savings.

There are currently 41 counties that maintain the office of jailer, but do not have a jail. These counties either have chosen to close their jails because of rising cost, or have been forced to close because of failure to meet minimum state standards. All 41 no-jail counties still have an elected jailer.

The state's no-jail jailers are paid nearly \$1.5 million annually for their county positions. Salaries range from \$20,000 to \$77,243 and average \$36,160. That dollar amount nears \$2 million when you include the 97 full or part-time deputies employed.

Without jails, most jailers have sparse or minimal duties, if any. A small number of these jailers or their deputies may transport prisoners or accompany them to court. This responsibility will be absorbed by the sheriff's office. The cost might be absorbed by the sheriff's office or may necessitate funding.

Below is a list of effected counties:

Anderson	Garrard	Lyon	Owen
Bath	Green	Magoffin	Owsley
Bourbon	Hancock	Martin	Pendleton
Bracken	Harrison	McCreary	Perry
Breathitt	Henry	McLean	Robertson
Carlisle	Johnson	Menifee	Spencer
Cumberland	Knott	Mercer	Trigg
Edmonson	Lawrence	Metcalf	Trimble
Elliot	Lee	Morgan	Washington
Fleming	Livingston	Nicholas	Wolfe
Gallatin.			

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting,

**Preparer:** Wendell F. Butler **Reviewer:** MCY **Date:** 1/14/15